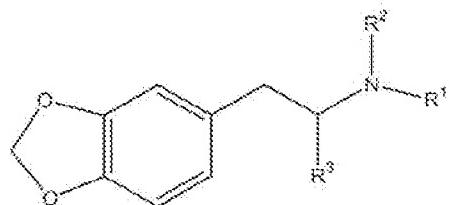


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A compound having a structure



wherein:

R¹ is -J-M-T;

R² is a protecting group; and

R³ is an optionally substituted alkyl group; wherein

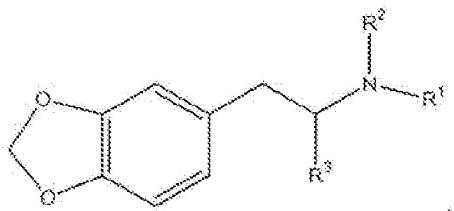
J is a straight or branched chain comprising 1-15 carbon atoms and 0-6 heteroatoms;

M is -CO-, and

T is selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl and a leaving group.

2. (previously presented) The compound of claim 51 wherein the macromolecular carrier is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a polypeptide, and a polysaccharide.
3. (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of keyhole limpet hemocyanin, bovine serum albumin, and bovine thyroglobulin.
4. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein J comprises 1-11 carbon atoms.
5. (original) The compound of claim 4 wherein J is -(CH₂)_k- and k is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.
6. (currently amended) The compound of claim 5 wherein R² is a protecting group, and R³ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, and n-butyl.
7. (currently amended) The compound of claim 6 wherein k is 3 and M is -CO-.
8. (original) The compound of claim 7 wherein T is a leaving group.
9. (previously presented) The compound of claim 7 wherein R² is a protecting group, and R³ is methyl.
10. (original) The compound of claim 7 wherein T is a leaving group comprising N-oxy succinimide.

11. (currently amended) The compound of claim 10 wherein R² is a protecting group, and R³ is methyl.
12. (previously presented) The compound of claim 51 wherein T is a macromolecular carrier selected from the group consisting of a hemocyanin, a globulin, and an albumin.
13. (currently amended) The compound of claim 12 wherein R² is a protecting group, and R³ is methyl.
14. (previously presented) The compound of claim 9 wherein R² is trifluoroacetyl and T is N-oxysuccinimide.
15. (previously presented) The compound of claim 9 wherein R² is trifluoroacetyl and T is hydroxyl.
- 16-50 (cancelled)
51. (previously presented) A compound having a structure



wherein:

R¹ is -J-M-T;

R² is a protecting group; and

R³ is an optionally substituted alkyl group; wherein

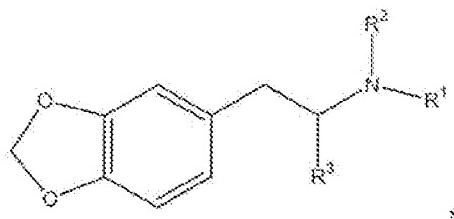
J is a straight or branched chain comprising 1-15 carbon atoms and 0-6 heteroatoms;

M is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -CO-, -NR⁴-, -S-, -C(=NH)O-, -NH(CO)-, -NH(CO)NH-, -NH(CS)-, -NH(CS)NH-, -O(CO)NH-, and -NH(C=NH)-, wherein R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and an alkyl group; and

T is a macromolecular carrier.

52. (previously presented) The compound of claim 51 wherein J is a straight chain comprising 3 carbon atoms and M is -CO-.

53. (previously presented) A compound having a structure



wherein:

R¹ is -J-M-T;

R² is a protecting group; and

R³ is an optionally substituted alkyl group; wherein

J is a straight or branched chain comprising 1-15 carbon atoms and 0-6 heteroatoms;

M is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -CO-, -NR⁴-, -S-, -C(=NH)O-, -NH(CO)-, -NH(CO)NH-, -NH(CS)-, -NH(CS)NH-, -O(CO)NH-, and -NH(C=NH)-, wherein R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and an alkyl group; and

T is a label.

54-55 (cancelled)